

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 02172 180303Z

66/44

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 SSO-00 NSC-06 NSCE-00 /023 W
----- 058388

O 161849Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7778

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2172

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR TEXTS NBRD PARA FIVE)

ARA/BC FOR FIMBRES FROM POPPER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (MOFFETT, TOBY/MILLER, GEORGE/HARKIN, TOM)

SUBJECT: CODEL MOFFETT

1. SUMMARY: FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES THE EMBASSY IS BEING BOMBARED WITH SIGNALS THAT CODEL MOFFETT HAS LEFT BEHIND CONSIDERABLE ILL FEELING FROM THE PRESIDENT ON DOWN. UNDOUBTEDLY, - A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF THIS IS EXAGGERATION FOR EFFECT AND REFLECTION OF HARD-LINE ANTAGONISM TOWARD CODEL'S LIBERAL VIEWS. HOWEVER, MUCH OF THE ILL FEELING RESULTS FROM GENUINE SENSE OF AFFRONT OVER WHAT ARE CONSIDERED DISCOURTEOUS AND ARROGANT CODEL ACTIONS. EFFORT BY CONGRESSMAN HARKIN AND JOE ELDRIDGE (SEE BELOW) TO BLUSTER THEIR WAY INTO THE VILLA GRIMALDI, DINA INTERROGATION CENTER, IS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE EXAMPLE. GOC OFFICIALDOM BELIEVES CODEL'S CONDUCT IS PROOF OF OFT-REPEATED ARGUMENT THAT CHILE NEVER RECEIVES EVENHANDED TREATMENT. THEY ASSERT CODEL ARRIVED WITH PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS, SAW ALL OF THE REGIME'S OPPONENTS WHILE REFUSING TO GIVE GOC EQUAL TIME, AND UNDOUBTEDLY WILL FIND SOME PUBLIC FORUM IN WHICH TO CRITICIZE GOC. DEPARTMENT (AND CODEL) SHOULD BE AWARE THAT LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF CODEL'S CONDUCT ARE LIKELY TO COMPLICATE EMBASSY'S ONGOING EFFORTS TO LUBRICATE THE PAROLE PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGE FURTHER STEPS ON THE PART OF GOC IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AREA. VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY ALSO WAS AN INNOCENT VICTIM OF BACKLASH.

END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 02172 180303Z

2. GOVERNMENT MEDIA GAVE WORST POSSIBLE INTERPRETATION TO CODEL'S MEETINGS WITH PRIVATE PERSONS. FOLLOWING IS OUR BEST RECONSTRUCTION OF WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED. CODEL MET A NUMBER OF DETAINEES AND POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND HAD A MINOR ARGUMENT WITH SENIOR OFFICIAL AT TRES ALAMOS DETENTION CENTER OVER WHETHER REPRESENTATIVE HARKIN COULD SEE DETAINEE IN PRIVATE PER HIS INITIAL REQUEST. HARKIN EVENTUALLY PREVAILED. CONVERSATION WAS NOT HEATED, ASSMEDIA ASSERTED.

3. GROUP VISITED SOUP KITCHEN ORGANIZED BY CHURCH AND VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY, TALKED TO MOTHERS RUNNING IT (MEDIA CALLED THEM "GROUP OF MARXISTS"), SAW CHILDREN USING SOUP KITCHEN, AND VISITED LAND REFORM AREA SOUTH OF SANTIAGO (WHERE SENSATIONALIST "LA SEGUNDA" SAID THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO "MARXIST AND POLITICAL PROPAGANDA").

4. WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN OF CONGRESSMAN HARKIN'S EFFORT TO ENTER DINA'S NOTORIOUS INTERROGATION CENTER, VILLA GRIMALDI. CODEL ESCORT ELDRIDGE CONFIRMED TO US THAT AFTERNOON OF MARCH 15 HE AND HARKIN TOOK CAB TO VILLA AT ABOUT THE TIME OF PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED CALL ON SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE. AFTER STANDING AROUND FOR AWHILE, THEY WALKED THROUGH GATE WHICH HAD OPENED FOR ENTERING VEHICLE. THEY WERE STOPPED BY SECURITY FORCE AND ESCORTED OUTSIDE, WHERE HARKIN ARGUED WITH GUARD FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES.

5. GOC AND MEDIA HAVE PUT GREATEST EMPHASIS ON BREAKING OF CODEL'S APPOINTMENT WITH INTERIOR MINISTER. IN ALL OF THE DETAILS IT APPEARS TO EMBASSY THAT INCIDENT RESULTED PRIMARILY FROM CROSSED LINES OF COMMUNICATION. AS WE RECONSTRUCT EVENT, CODEL'S APPOINTMENT CAME THROUGH ONLY MONDAY MORNING MARCH 15 AT FIRST FOR 1100 HOURS AND THEN, WHEN THAT HOUR WAS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE, FOR 1500 HOURS. FONMINISTRY ESCORT AND MS. SWITZER WERE HANDLING MATTER, WITH EMBASSY ACTING AS GO BETWEEN ONLY WHEN THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION. MS. SWITZER ULTIMATELY CALLED US ABOUT 1350 FROM CARDINAL'S LUNCHEON WITH REQUEST TO MAKE EXCUSES TO BENAVIDES. ONLY THEN DID SHE ADD THAT CODEL COULD NOT MAKE EYZAGUIRRE MEETING EITHER, WHICH DAYS EARLIER HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 1600 HOURS. EMBASSY CONTROL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTI 02172 180303Z

OFFICER PASSED MESSAGE TO OFFICE OF FONMINISTRY ESCORT, WHO WAS OUT FOR LUNCH; FONMINISTRY OFFICER RECEIVED MESSAGE AT ABOUT 1430 HOURS AND INFORMED BENAVIDES AND EYZAGUIRRE AT THAT TIME. CODEL ATTEMPTED TO REACH BENAVIDES AT 1800 HOURS TO CLARIFY SITUATION, BUT ONLY REACHED SECRETARY WHO SAID BENAVIDES WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

6. ELDRIDGE OFFERED US NO REASON FOR CANCELLING EYZAGUIRRE

APPOINTMENT. HE SAID GROUP DEPARTED CARDINAL SILVA'S RESIDENCE AT ABOUT 1545 HOURS, WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN THEM TIME TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE. REPRESENTATIVE HARKIN VISITED VILLA GRIMALDI SHORTLY AFTER THAT.

7. "SEGUNDA" STORY AFTERNOON MARCH 16 HEAVILY IMPLICATED VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY AS A SUPPOSEDLY PRIME MOVER IN ARRANGING CODEL'S SCHEDULE. VICAR OF SOLIDARITY, CHRISTIAN PRECHT, AND THE LAWYER WHO WORKED WITH CODEL, JAVIER EGANA, FOLLOWED UP "SEGUNDA" STORY WITH URGENT MEETING WITH POL CONS THAT EVENING. THEY WERE CONCERNED AT EFFECT "SEGUNDA" TENDENTIOUS REPORTING WOULD HAVE ON VICARIATE OPERATIONS, AND WONDERED WHAT THE EMBASSY KNEW ABOUT THE ARTICLE. ALL CONCLUDED THAT "SEGUNDA" DETAILED INFORMATION ON CODEL'S MOVEMENTS RESULTED FROM GOC'S INTENSIVE TAILING OF CODEL, AND THAT "SEGUNDA" WAS TRYING TO PUT THE FINGER ON THE VICARIATE.

8. EYZAGUIRRE INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR EVENING OF MARCH 16 THAT HE WAS STILL UNHAPPY WITH CAVALIER TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT SEND WRITTEN PROTEST AS BENAVIDES DID.

9. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONCLUDES:

(A) BOTH GOC AND CODEL, LOCKED INTO PRE-CONCEIVED NOTIONS, WERE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO DISCREDIT THE OTHER. CODEL CAME TO CHILE SEARCHING FOR EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM ITS VIEWS ON CHILEAN SITUATION AND JUSTIFY CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS. GOC SOUGHT PEGS ON WHICH TO FLOAT STORY OF CODEL'S PREJUDICES IN ORDER TO UNDERCUT ANY STATEMENTS MADE BY CODEL ON THE BASIS OF THE TRIP. ABRUPT CANCELLATION OF APPOINTMENTS WITH SENIOR GOC OFFICIALS BY CODEL AND ARROGANT ATTEMPT TO CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANTIA 02172 180303Z

BLUSTER WAY INTO VILLA GRIMALDI PROVIDED SUCH PEGS.

(B) EMBASSY HAS ALREADY NOTED THAT VERY STRONG LOCAL REACTION TO CODEL'S ACTION IS LIKELY TO COMPLICATE OUR EFFORTS IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS THE PAROLE PROGRAM AND ENCOURAGING THE GOC TOWARD FURTHER PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. LTEROL
DSTNISTER
BENAVIDES' REACTION MAY HAVE BEEN OVERDONE BUT CHILEAN OFFICIALDOM GENUINELY IS AGGRIEVED AT WHAT IS REGARDED AS CODEL'S BAD MANNERS.

(C) IN ADDITION TO THESE DELETERIOUS RESULTS, THE HUMAN RIGHTS-ORIENTED VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY WAS AN INNOCENT VICTIM. VICARIATE AND CHURCH LEADERS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL SINCE ITS FOUNDATION EARLY THIS YEAR TO AVOID NEEDLESSLY PROVOCATORY

ACTIONS OR APPEARANCES THAT WOULD GIVE THE NEANDERTHALS A
CHANCE TO DISCREDIT VICARIATE. PREDECESSOR PEACE COMMITTEE
HAD OPENED ITSELF TO FORCED CLOSURE IN LATE 1975. CODEL'S
ACTION AND VICARIATE'S CONNECTION WITH IT GAVE OPPORTUNITY
FOR "SEGUNDA" AND "CRONISTA" TO BEGIN BUILDING UP THE SAME
CASE AGAINST THE VICARIATE.
POPPER

NOTE BY OC/T: NSC TAKE AS ORIGINAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANTIA02172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760101-0899
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760356/aaaabxcn.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MOFFETT
TAGS: OREP, SHUM, PFOR, CI, US, (MOFFETT, TOBY), (MILLER, GEORGE), (HARKIN, TOM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006